Clean Air Counts

Interested in energy efficiency and pollution reduction? Participation is a lot easier than you may think. The following strategies are surprisingly easy and genuinely effective at making your air cleaner.

Energy Efficiency and Emission Reduction Strategies:

Workplace Transportation Options

1.) The Workplace Transportation Options strategy encourages employees to drive less to work on a daily basis. Employers can achieve this objective by offering a range of alternatives to driving alone to work, through incentives to encourage this behavior and by working with transportation service providers in implementing a WTO program. Employers with a strong WTO program are encouraged to join EPA's Commuter Choice Leadership Initiative.

Natural Landscaping

2.) Natural landscaping is a method for beautifying and enhancing areas around buildings and other structures. Natural landscaping utilizes wild flora to create surroundings that are aesthetically pleasing, easy to maintain and resistant to seasonal stresses– unlike conventional landscaping which often involves the removal of native plants and the extensive planting of lawns. Because natural landscaping requires less maintenance (such as mowing, fertilization and pesticide treatment), it also promotes cleaner air

Low-VOC Paints

3.) Participants in this strategy use low-VOC and zero-VOC paints, primers, and sealants in lieu of conventional counterparts.

Low-VOC Cleaning Products

4.) Participants in this strategy use low-VOC, or clean, cleaning products in lieu of convention counterparts that emit hazardous and smog-forming chemicals.

Low-VOC Building Materials

5.) The low-VOC building materials strategy encourages the use of adhesives, caulks, sealants, manufactured wood products and other building materials with a VOC content significantly below current EPA limits. The use of these products is considered one aspect of green building.

Low Impact Paving

6.)Low-impact paving is a strategy for reducing smog-forming emissions from paving roads, fire lanes, parking lots and other surfaces with asphalt. By using non-petroleum-based paving systems, specially formulated sealants and coatings, and special design features, communities can reduce smog-forming emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Lawn Care Buy Back Programs

7.) The Lawn Care Buy Back Programs aim at reducing air pollutants by encouraging people to trade in gas-powered mowers and blowers for electric, battery or non-motorized lawn care equipment.

Gas Can Replacement

8.) The Gas Can Replacement strategy informs citizens of the benefits of using more environmentally sound gas cans and promotes events in which people can trade older models for newer “cleaner” cans.

Energy Star Office Equipment

9.) Energy Star is a voluntary labeling program designed to identify and promote energy-efficient products. Energy Star Products include a wide variety of products that meet efficiency standards including office equipment, appliances, and electronics.

Energy Star Homes

10.) The Energy Star Homes strategy encourages reduction in energy consumption and air pollution resulting from new residential construction.

Energy Star Buildings

11.) The Energy Star Buildings strategy encourages participants to reduce consumption and air pollution resulting from the generation of energy. Participants are encouraged to achieve these objectives by either becoming a Energy Star partner or contract with a professional energy consultant.

Energy Efficient Lighting

12.) Energy-efficient lighting can involve a combination of strategies such as using more natural daylight, using energy efficient light bulbs that operate at a lower wattage, improving lighting controls and adjusting light to appropriate task levels, and performing basic maintenance on light fixtures to keep them running longer. By utilizing energy-efficient lighting you will lower electricity costs and make your workplace more comfortable.

The link is **www.cleanaircounts.org**